IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT:

Examiner: V. Bui

Boris Leschinsky

Group Art No.: 3731

CONTINUATION OF

SERIAL NO.: 09/541,215

11 017

FILED: April 3, 2000

Express Mail Label No. EL737700597US

TITLE: REDUCED DIAMETER STENT/ GRAFT DEPLOYMENT CATHETER

DATE: October 23, 2001

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Box PATENT APPLICATION Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

The captioned application is a continuation under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b) of U.S. Serial No. 09/541,215, filed April 3, 2000 which is a continuation of U.S. Serial No. 09/006,113 filed January 13, 1998. Before action, please amend the captioned application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please enter the following new paragraph to the first line of the specification, after the title.

This is a continuation of application serial no. 09/541,215, filed April 3, 2000, now U.S. Patent 6,306,145, which is a continuation of application serial no. 09/006,113, filed January 13, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,074,398.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel original claims 4 and 5.

REMARKS

By this paper, certain amendments were made to the specification for clarification. It is to believed that no new matter has been added. Additionally, original claims 4 and 5 have been canceled without prejudice.

Respectfully submitted,

FULWIDER PATTON LEE & UTECHT, LLP

John W. Hanley, Registration No. 38,171

JVH:kst Enclosure Howard Hughes Center 6060 Center Drive, Tenth Floor Los Angeles, CA 90045 Tel. No. (310) 824-5555 Fax No. (310) 824-9696 #219325